

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The welding wire storage device according to claim ~~±~~ 6, wherein the coupling mechanisms ~~(48, 49)~~ are each designed as a quick-lock.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The welding wire storage device according to claim ~~±~~ 6, wherein elements ~~(51)~~ for delimiting ~~the~~ maximum deflection of the wire core ~~(43)~~ are arranged in the housing ~~(42)~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The welding wire storage device according to claim ~~±~~ 6, wherein an element ~~(57)~~ for fastening the hose pack ~~(23)~~ is arranged on ~~the~~ an opposite side of the free space ~~(45)~~ of the housing ~~(42)~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ The welding wire storage device according to claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein the housing ~~(42)~~ is arranged between a welding apparatus ~~(1)~~ or wire feeder ~~(11)~~ and a welding torch ~~(10)~~, wherein the hose pack ~~(23)~~ is arranged directly, without interruption, between the welding apparatus ~~(1)~~ or wire feeder ~~(11)~~ and the welding torch ~~(10)~~, and wherein the wire core ~~(43)~~ is interrupted in the housing. ~~(42.)~~

Claim 6 (New): A welding wire storage device for a welding system comprising:

(a) a housing having a free space, a first end region and a second end region opposite the first end region;

(b) a wire core surrounding a welding wire arcuately arranged to lie freely in the free space of the housing, said wire core having a first end fixed in the first end region of the housing;

(c) a measuring device for detecting deflection of the wire core;

(d) a guide element on the second end region displaceably mounting the wire core;

(e) a wire guide hose for the wire core; and

(f) first and second coupling mechanisms arranged on the housing for connection with the wire guide hose.